a very ſenſible Manner; ſo that every Day appeared a Month, till I ſhould deliver my Letter, and ſee what Succeſs it would meet with. For had it ſucceeded, I ſhould have gone immediately, and drawn thoſe Things, which, not being taken care of, though of great Curioſity and Erudition, will ſoon be deſtroyed.——However, as I could do nothing more, and having a great Concern for thoſe fine Things in a periſhing Condition, I left them a Paper of Directions how to manage. If they do not obſerve them, the greater Misfortune will be ours, to hear that what Time, Earthquakes, and the Ravages of the Volcano have ſpared, are now deſtroyed by thoſe who pretend to have the Care of them, *&c.*

V. *Extract of a Letter from Mr.* George Knapton *to Mr.* Charles Knapton, *upon the ſame Subject.*

I Shall not trouble you with any Account of the Curioſities of *Naples*, they being ſo well known, only of one which is ſomething out of the common Way, the antient City of *Herculaneum*, which was ſwallowed up by an Earthquake. It is now under a Town called *Portici*, a quarter of a Mile from the Sea, at the Foot of *Veſuvius*; and has no other Road to it, but that of the Town-well, which is none of the moſt agreeable, being in ſome Parts very ſtreight, in others wide, and cut in a moſt rude Manner. Toward the Bottom, where you go into the City, it is very broad, which they have made ſo, to turn the

Columns, which were brought up: For I ſpoke to an old Man, living next Door to the Well, who told me, he was one of thoſe employed in digging there; and that they began 27 Years ago, and worked Five Years: That the beſt Part of the Duke *di Belboſi*'s preſent Eſtate was found there; the moſt principal Things were, Two Columns of Oriental Alabaſter, which were ſold for 50,000 Ducats: That they had found alſo many fine Statues, the beſt of which were ſold, and ſome he had ſent to *Lorraine*. I ſaw Five, which they have put up in the Market-place, all clothed Figures, one in a Conſular Habit, the others Women: They are all well dreſt, and in a fine Taſte, but want the Heads. In the Duke's *Villa*, which is near and by the Sea-ſide, are Two others intire, both Women; one ſeems to be a *Livia:* Alſo the Fragments of a naked Figure, which wants the Head and Arms, of a good Style. Theſe, with ſome Ornaments and Fragments of various ſorts of Marbles, are all that is to be ſeen there, of what has been dug up.

Having given you ſome Account of what is taken out of this ſubterraneous City, I ſhall now proceed to what remains in it, and our Journey down to it. At our coming to the Well, which is in a ſmall Square, ſurrounded with miſerable Houſes, filled with miſerable ugly old Women, they ſoon gathered about us, wondering what brought us thither; but when the Men who were with us, broke away the paltry Machine with which they uſed to draw up ſmall Buckets of Water, I thought we ſhould have been ſtoned by them: Till, perceiving one more furious than the reſt, whom we found to be *Padrona* of the Well, by

by applying a ſmall Bit of Money to her, we made a ſhift to quiet the Tumult. Our having all the Tackle for deſcending to ſeek, gave Time for all the Town to gather round us, which was very troubleſome: For, when any one offered to go down, he was prevented either by a Wife, or a Mother; ſo that we were forced to ſeek a motherleſs Batchelor to go firſt. It being very difficult for the Firſt to get in, the Well being very broad at that Part, ſo that they were obliged to ſwing him in, and the People above making ſuch a Noiſe, that the Man in the Well could not be heard, obliged our Company to draw their Swords, and threaten any who ſpoke with Death. This cauſed a Silence, after which our Guide was ſoon landed ſafe, who pulled us in by the Legs, as we came down. The Entrance is 82 Feet from the Top of the Well: It is large, and branches out into many Ways, which they have cut. We were forced to mark with Chalk, when we came to any Turning, to prevent loſing ourſelves. It gives one a perfect Idea of a City deſtroyed in that Manner: For one there ſees great Quantities of Timber, in the Form of Beams and Rafters, ſome lying one Way, ſome another; ſome, as they broke in the Fall, others intire: Theſe are ſticking in the Sides of the Ways, and are become a perfect Charcoal; but thoſe in moiſt Places, and where the Water ouſes, you may run your Hand into, and work like a Paſte, and they have more the Colour of rotten Wood. The Walls are ſome tumbled ſlanting, others croſſing them, and many are upright. One ſees great Quantities of Marble, as Bits of Window-caſes and other Ornaments, ſticking out on all Parts. There ſeem to be, in

one Place, the Ruins of ſome magnificent Building, which they have dug round; for there appear the Baſes in white Marble of ſquare and round Columns, which are all of a Size; and, what is ſurpriſing, they have not examined whether they have any Columns on them, which one Stroke of the Pick-ax would have done. I ſcraped away the Earth at the Side of the Baſe of a Pilaſter, and found the Wall covered with a very beautiful Marble, but could not reach to diſcover what was on the Top of it. There are but Two Columns that appear, one of a red Marble, the other of Brick covered with Stucco, and fluted. In one Place there are about 14 Steps, which reſembled the Seats of a Theatre. Some of the Walls have the Plaſter remaining, and are painted, the Colours ſtill freſh. *We found many Ways filled up, which they had done to ſave the Trouble of carrying out the Earth.* I obſerved that they had not gone near the Bottom of the Ruins, for fear, I ſuppoſe, of the Springs; for in ſome Parts they ſeem to be as low as the Water in the Well. One ſees nothing but pure Earth mixed with theſe Ruins; whereas the Surface of all that Part of the Country, quite to the Sea, is covered with the Cinders of *Veſuvius*. One ſees the Buildings were of Brick covered with Marble; for I found no other ſort of Stone there, but thin Plates of Marble of all ſorts in great Quantity. Neither are there any Baſes or Capitals of large Columns; Two Feet Diameter is the moſt. Captain *Emmory* brought away a ſmall Capital of a Pilaſter, which is very curious; it being much the ſame as was uſed by the *Goths* in *Italy*. This makes me think, that they revived the antient

barbarous Style, uſed before the Introduction of the *Greek*, for the Capital: This is certainly more antient than the Time of the *Goths* in *Italy*. It was the only one of the kind we ſaw there.

VI. *Extract of a Letter from Mr.* Criſpe *to Mr.* George Knapton, *upon the ſame Subject as the Two preceding Papers.*

Rome, April 24. 1740.

AT *Portici* I ſaw ſome antique Paintings, which have lately been taken out of the Ruins of *Herculaneum*: Two of them, about 12 Feet Square, with their painted Frames or Borders round them, are as freſh and perfect as if done Yeſterday; much more ſo, I aſſure you, than ſome of *Raphael's* in the *Vatican*; and for Excellence, and fine Taſte, they are, I think, beyond any thing I have ſeen. One of theſe is called the *Pomona*, becauſe, among other Figures, there is a Woman ſitting crowned with Fruits and Bloſſoms. The other is *Theſeus*, having juſt killed the *Minotaur*, who lies dead at his Feet; a Figure of a Youth is kiſſing his Right Hand; *Ariadne* and another Figure ſtand at his Left. The Figures in both theſe are as big as Life. There is a Third, ſomewhat leſs, of *Chiron* teaching *Achilles* on the Harp, if poſſible, ſtill beyond the Two former. There are above 50 other Pieces, ſome whole Figures, ſome Heads, ſome *Maſcheras*, ſome Landskips, ſome Architecture.

I was to viſit the Ruins under-ground, where I ſaw ſeveral Pieces that were taking down; particularly